

## CRISIS IN SPAIN DUE TO ARMY SCANDALS

Charges of Incompetency, of Looting and of Cruelty Made in Chamber.

### NEWSPAPERS MUZZLED

Principal Attack Directed Against Morocco Campaign and Morale of Troops.

### SOLDIERS AS ASSASSINS

War Minister Clerva Denies Graft in Army—Will Punish Guilty.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Madrid, Oct. 28, via London, Oct. 29.—The situation in Spain is threatening an eruption as serious, if not more so, than that which has just occurred in Portugal. The assembly of the Cortes took place on October 29, and already there is talk of an abrupt prorogation. The Government is restive under Parliament's control. For the last three years the constitutional guarantees have been suspended and there has been an implacable censorship on all written and spoken words in public.

When Parliament opened the Government declared the censorship abolished, but hardly had the newspapers begun to throw a little light on conditions in Morocco and on the political moves than the censorship was brutally reborn.

Correspondents Muzzled. The editor and the directors of the Madrid evening newspaper *La Tribuna* have already been imprisoned, and those of *El Diario Universal*, a Deputy and a Senator, respectively, have been brought before military tribunals. Foreign correspondents in Spain are menaced by the same fate.

Senor Clerva wants an adjournment of Parliament as soon as possible, and this would have occurred already, after a three days' sitting, if two Liberal Ministers, Francisco Rodriguez de Velasco and Marinus de Cortina of the Navy, had not threatened to resign.

Nevertheless a crisis looms near. The Ministry's alleged favoritism and arbitrary acts have produced in the army a festering which may lead to civil war. Prominent men have stated that the Rifian campaign, which has cost and is costing much blood and money, was launched to satisfy the ambitions of certain Generals and certain business men. Names and figures were mentioned. Several Deputies, some of them military men, made accusations in speeches which sent a thrill through the entire country. Senor Solano declared:

"In Morocco I saw Generals who are cowardly, malicious thieves such as I saw in the East and in the Antilles, who will lose our African territory, just as others lost Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines."

He declared that whole regiments of improperly trained troops had been sent to Morocco for active service, and that cooperation was lacking between Gen. Berenguer, Spanish High Commissioner in Morocco, and Gen. Silvestre, who commanded the Spanish forces there. He characterized the Spanish attack on the Moors at Alhucemas as ill advised and doomed to defeat, since the Moorish forces there were stronger than anywhere else in Morocco. He charged that at least one Spanish General in the Moorish campaign had been guilty of illicit trade in arms.

### Reverses Were Avoidable.

Martinez Campos was another Deputy who criticized the conduct of the Moroccan campaign. He charged that many officers in Morocco merely sought higher pay and promotion; that they did not care for the campaign out of patriotism and that they were without enthusiasm. He asserted that the troops there were improperly trained and that their morale was bad. Gen. Silvestre, he said, was unaware of real conditions obtaining in the Spanish army, and that had he been relieved of his command Spanish reverses in Morocco could have been avoided. He charged that when the disaster south of Melilla occurred numerous Spanish officers were absent from their posts of duty, and that when the High Commissioner arrived in Melilla he found there only 1,000 Spanish troops instead of 5,000, as he had been led to believe were on duty there.

He charged that many Spanish officers in Melilla hid themselves until reinforcements reached there. He demanded an investigation, punishment of any officers found guilty of neglect of duty and that no further steps be taken to punish the rebellious Moroccans until the investigation had been completed. He declared there were many shirkers in the Spanish army, and that it was his opinion Mount Arruit could have been relieved with 10,000 men, whereas Spain possessed 14,000.

Another deputy charged that nothing was done in Morocco towards peace negotiations with the natives, who were wilfully mistreated. He declared the military in Morocco had resolved themselves into conquistadores and that assassinations, plunder and violations were rife. This orator cited the example of one captain, who, to obtain a carpet valued at \$5,000, simply killed the Kabyle owner. He asked if there was any wonder why the Moors sought revenge.

Senor Clerva replied to the critics of the Ministry of War and declared that "wild charges" had been made without taking into consideration the bravery of the army. He admitted there might be some dishonest Spanish soldiers in Morocco, but that the charges should not be against the army as a whole or the entire forces in Morocco, but should be individual. He called for names of those who were guilty of misconduct and declared that he would make searching inquiry into any specific charges and would punish anyone found guilty.

The War Minister was interrupted frequently. Finally he declared that if the military committees interfered he would dissolve them.

A royal decree, just issued, dismisses Gen. Carlos Duro O'Donnell from command of the Thirtieth Infantry Brigade in Morocco and removes Col. Esteban and Col. La Cava from their com-

## TWO SKINS TO BE PULLED OFF COBRA BUSY AT MEAL

Dangerous Operation to Take Place While "Terror of Jungle" Is Engaged in Swallowing Smaller Snake—More Animals, Mostly Ferocious, Received at Zoo.

The reptile house in the New York Zoological Park will be the setting for a little operation to-morrow, the operators of which, if there are any, will keep well in the background. Curator Ditmars and Headkeeper Toomey are going to remove two sets of skin from one of the zoo's new king cobras, two of which arrived from India last week. The cobra is the only snake for whom bite there is no reasonably safe remedy. When its fangs strike a victim there is injected through them half a teaspoonful of virus, swift in action and deadly in effect.

Mr. Ditmars describes the cobra as "the terror of the jungle." The king variety is a cannibal, and feeds only upon other snakes. And it is the only snake that will pursue a man. The cobra to be operated on is an unusually long one, 13 feet from its tail to the tip of its head. After its capture in India, he was held many months in a Chinese animal store, the proprietor of which was afraid to

feed him, and the snake arrived at the Zoo in poor condition—not much thicker than a broomstick, and with two extra coils of skin.

These are to be removed not only because of the improvement that will be made in the cobra's appearance, but also because a skin that is not shed secretes an oil which is likely to impair the snake's sight.

Mr. Ditmars' plan is to feed the cobra a snake about four feet long, and then quickly pull off the extra skins while the cobra is taking his second or third swallow. If he approached too soon he may drop the snake and strike.

Four other cobras were received at the zoo with this one, besides two black hoppers, a spotted leopard and two large lizards, all of which came from India. When the female black leopard was caged she leaped across the entire length of the cage and lashed herself against the wire mesh just two seconds after one of the keepers slammed the door shut and backed away. It was a jump of about eighteen feet.

These removals follow the Tiam conveyer disaster. They have stirred army and political circles deeply, and while so far army officers have taken no steps in connection with protesting against these dismissals, the situation that has developed is regarded as little less than a crisis.

The King and the Premier, Senor Maura, are giving the Minister of War their entire support. Alfonso has given his consent that Clerva dissolve all army officers' committees should they in the least interfere with discipline. The military budget in greater than was that of Germany before the world war and it is charged that the Spanish army at present does not possess sufficient rifles, artillery, munitions, tents or sanitary equipment. Soldiers sleep on the ground and their rations consist of rye bread. The wounded, lacking antiseptics, die by the thousand from infection. Army horses, like automobiles, are used for social amusements of certain officers. It also is asserted that while the army is totally unequipped and has no tanks, airplanes, gas or flame projectors, its officers have their pockets full of money and are leading the lives of magnates, buying lands and villas.

This atmosphere has destroyed discipline and the soldiers want to enjoy

a few of their officers' advantages, while the corps of officers itself is divided, one side that of discipline and honesty, being thrown against corrupt profiteers, and again, groups of favorites against non-favorites. Notorious justas, or committees, on military defense which have been in existence for the last three years to light favoritism in the army, also embody suspected elements from a moral standpoint. Their dispersal is imminent, but a struggle will precede it.

As to the unfortunate country, exploited by one and then another party, bereft of soldiers, goods, cattle, the people at first were made to believe that 15,000 men lost last June in the Rifian Mountains were taken prisoners, but there is no doubt that they were massacred to the last man. The Government wants the closing of Parliament to evade a confession of this horrible incident.

The Rifian war is costing a million dollars a day, and if it is not finished soon it will spell financial ruin to Spain, and when the people know the truth it will be too late to remedy it. But it is also feared that a moment of terrible reaction will arrive. The same causes produce the same effects, and the present regime in Spain resembles that in Russia before the war.

## SOVIET'S HALF LOAF BID ONLY A FEELER

Russia Expected to Go Much Further Than to Pay Pre-War Debts.

### U. S. STAND UNCHANGED

Obligation to This Country Since 1914 Is \$187,729,750 in Two Loans.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Oct. 30.—The suggestion made by the Soviet Government of Russia that it would consider acknowledgment of the debt of the Imperial Russian Government incurred prior to 1914, with recognition of the Soviet Government as a recompense, shared with the coming conference on the limitation of armaments the attention of official Washington.

While acknowledgment of the Russian debt is regarded as of less importance in this country than the establishment of a government which shall be representative of the Russian people, limitation of responsibility to debts incurred before 1914 is regarded as only half a loaf. The debt of Russia to this Government was incurred after 1914: the amount loaned in two advances subsequent to 1914 is \$187,729,750. Russian bonds, avowed to 1914, were sold in this country to private individuals. The Russian state debt previous to 1914 amounted to \$388,909,000. In the terms of the rate of exchange that existed then this would have amounted approximately to \$592,278,600. At the present time, a dollar will buy so many rubles that the Russian debt prior to 1914 in rubles of value would make a fabulous sum.

The debt incurred after 1914, which the Soviet offer ignores, is approximately \$187,729,750. The United States Government has not changed its attitude towards Russia from that expressed by Secretary of State Hughes some time ago, when he refused to deal with the present regime until it showed regard for personal and property rights. Harding administration officials declared to-day that this Government would listen to suggestions from Russia provided there

## 5,750,000,000,000 Paper Rubles Issued by Soviet

MOSCOW, Oct. 30 (Associated Press).—Paper money reaching an enormous total of 5,750,000,000,000 rubles has been issued by the Soviet Government, the latest output being 750,000,000,000 rubles in new money for the opening of the national bank. The city Soviet has published an order permitting newspapers to publish advertisements, which have been absent from the columns of journals here for four years. Advertisements have been taxed heavily.

is a disposition shown to fulfill the conditions laid down by Mr. Hughes.

The interpretation of the Soviet's latest offer by men close to the Administration is that the Russian advance is made as a feeler and represents the minimum concessions which the Soviet Government is prepared to make and by no means registers the Soviet regime's willingness to yield its uncompromising hostility to a decent association with the rest of the world. The suggestion is regarded as being more important because it is made on the eve of the approaching conference which will necessitate deal with Russian interests.

The Soviet offer corroborates information received here that the Bolshevik regime is gradually weakening and disintegrating. It is confident the Soviet leaders would not be making the concession already reported if they were not compelled to do so. The suggestion is made in a tone of treachery which is not overlooked by international observers, but which is excused on the ground that it probably represents a last effort on the part of the Soviet power to maintain itself. It is this possibility which has raised the Soviet suggestion almost to the dignity of a diplomatic gesture.

### LUDWIG'S FUNERAL PLANNED.

Services Will Be Held for Former Queen at Same Time.

BERLIN, Oct. 30.—The body of former King Ludwig of Bavaria, who died at Sarajewo, Hungary, is being moved to Munich, where the burial will be held in the Church of Our Lady at noon on Saturday, November 6. Funeral services for the former Queen of Bavaria will be held at the same time.

## BRITISH SHOW CAUTION OVER SOVIET'S OFFER

Recognition of Czarist Debts Interests Bankers.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. London, Oct. 30.—The Russian Soviet offer to recognize the old Czarist debts under certain conditions will be subjected to the most minute scrutiny here, but meanwhile comment is being withheld in British official circles until there is an expression of a definite attitude by the Government.

It is felt, however, that the questions developed by the note of Politsherin, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, is not new, for an acceptance by the Soviet Government of liability in connection with the old Czarist debts has all along been regarded as the test of the Soviet Government's sincerity, and the British Government has more than once made it plain to Moscow that something more tangible than a mere promise to pay was required of the Soviet, even if it were only a demonstration of its stability, which doubtful element has caused the British Government hitherto to withhold further manifestation of confidence in the Soviet than that shown by the Anglo-Russian trade agreement.

Tentative moves in certain European financial circles regarding the reimbursement of Great Britain's war loans probably provide a further reason for wariness and reticence on the part of the British Government in connection with the Politsherin note, as the difficulties facing the far more important question to Great Britain of the Soviet's proposal. The Politsherin note is, however, receiving a certain measure of support in private banking circles here.

## IRISH NEGOTIATIONS DEPEND ON ULSTER

Hang on Willingness to Assist in Coming Into Line With Sinn Fein.

LONDON, Oct. 30 (Associated Press).—Efforts have been made during the weekend to prevent a breakdown in the Irish peace conference, but a continuance of the negotiations now seems to depend almost entirely on the willingness of the Ulster authorities to assist in coming into line with the Sinn Fein.

The prevailing belief here seems to be in various quarters that even should there be a breakdown in the present conference the truce in Ireland should continue.

Sir James Craig, the Ulster Premier, who has professed a desire to work amicably with southern Ireland in an all-Ireland Council, will, it is said, receive the offer of greatly extended powers for the Northern Parliament, accompanied by a strengthening of the position of the Central Council connecting the two Irish Parliaments, and it is declared to be the belief that he may accept this.

But, it is asserted, Sir James will oppose any curtailment of the area of the northern Parliament and that he will especially resist any cutting off of the representation of northeast Ulster in the Imperial Parliament, which he regards as the greatest safeguard for Ulster.

The Observer urges that there be a definite continuance of the truce for three months, during which time, it declares, Premier Lloyd George might go to Washington and discuss at some point bring about a settlement of the Irish situation. The newspaper adds that the Sinn Fein most likely would not object to this expedient "as the truce so far has strengthened their position, and its only opponents would be the rebellious Unionist Commanders. The Premier expects to defeat overwhelmingly in Monday's decision in the House of Commons."



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This is action!—Written by A. W.

Next Issue, Times, Nov. 7, 1921

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